

State Dept. review completed

DIA Review
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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
14 October 1973

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

MIDDLE EAST

Situation Report Number 35
(As of 1130 EDT)

THE MILITARY SITUATION

GENERAL

1. The Egyptians are continuing their general offensive in the Sinai, and units have been reported in the Mitla Pass area. The Israelis claim to be holding in most areas. Little Israeli progress has been reported on the Syrian front, and the Arabs apparently are still able to launch counterattacks on Israeli positions. The Jordanian brigade has avoided any military action, and the Syrians are beginning to complain.

EGYPTIAN FRONT

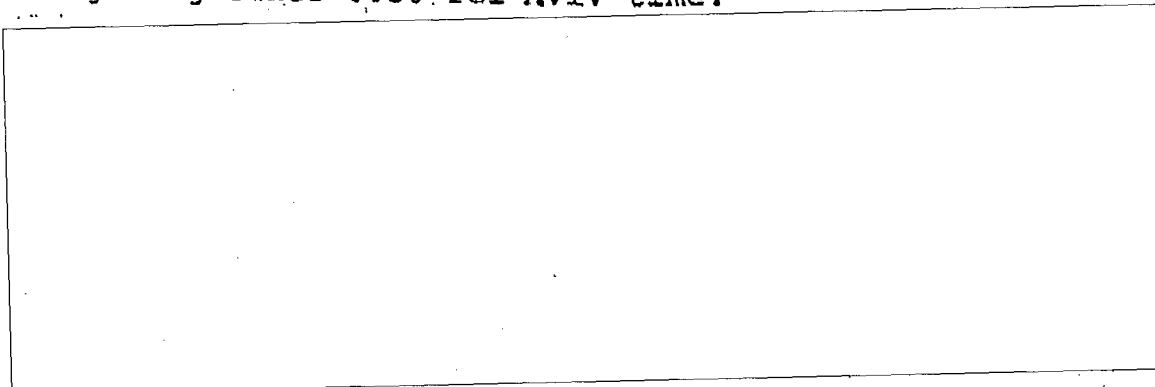
2. The Egyptian general offensive which began at dawn this morning continues, with pressure being exerted along the entire Suez Front, especially in the Mitla Pass area. The Israelis may have turned back a ground attack near the Mitla Pass, and at Bir Jiffafa the northern Sinai air control center was out of action for three hours, due possibly to combat action. Israeli press summaries of the battle report heavy attrition of Egyptian armor, while the Egyptians report several Israeli aircraft downed.

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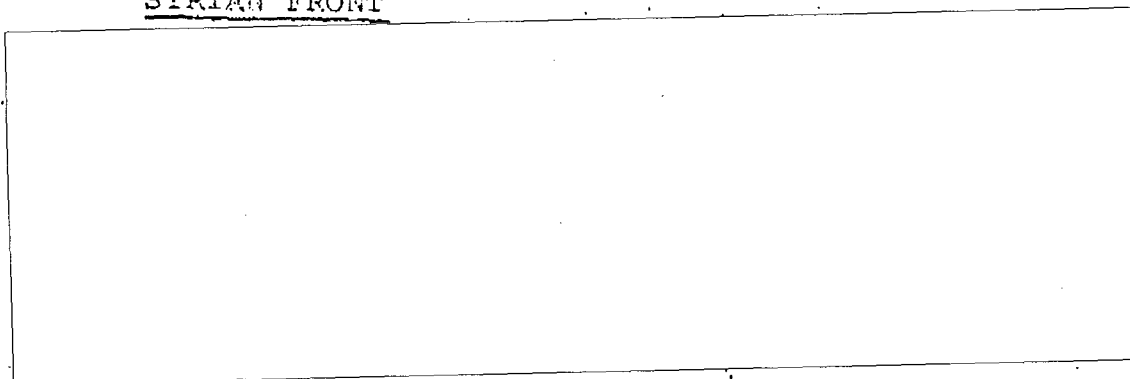
We have received no official Israeli account of the fighting since 0030 Tel Aviv time.

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SYRIAN FRONT

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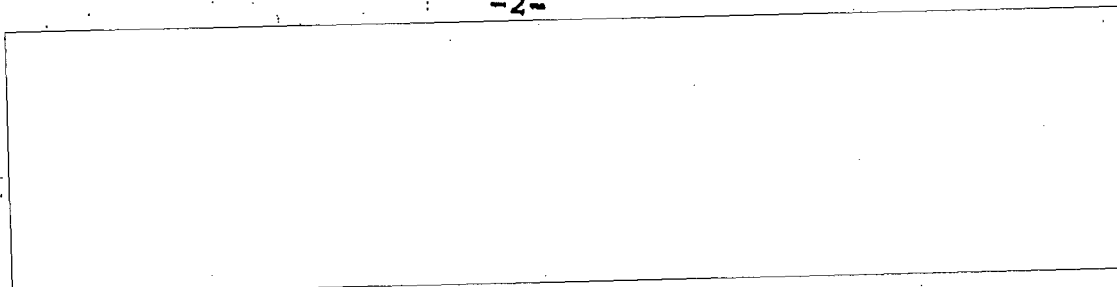
5. The Israelis claim to have repulsed continued Arab counterattacks on the Syrian front early on 14 October, and say they are making continued progress over difficult terrain. Tel Aviv now claims to have taken 414 Arab prisoners in the action on both fronts.

JORDANIAN INVOLVEMENT

6. Early this morning President Asad of Syria complained to King Husayn that the commander of the Jordanian 40th armored brigade, now in Syria, had refused to follow Syrian orders to advance. The brigade was located last night 12 kilometers inside

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Syria east of Da'ra. The commander evidently is following King Husayn's strict order to take no actions on Syrian orders to advance without first checking with Jordanian army headquarters.

7. The Syrian air force is now flying coordinated air defense patrols in Jordanian airspace. The flights are designed to protect Jordanian air bases against possible air attack by Israeli aircraft now that Jordan has sent a small force into Syria. 25X1

STATUS OF SOVIET FORCES

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SOVIET POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

13. Soviet broadcasts in English continue to cite foreign reports of US military efforts on behalf of Israel in an attempt to justify Moscow's airlift to the Arabs. These broadcasts have referred to articles in two US newspapers (Los Angeles Times and Portsmouth Herald) that describe a "massive airlift" to Israel, including F-4 Phantom fighters and both Sparrow and Sidewinder air-to-air missiles. A separate TASS broadcast on 13 October carries an Arab report that US pilots have taken part in bombing raids on Damascus. Thus far the Soviets have made no comment of their own about alleged US involvement.

14. Moscow is continuing the processing of Soviet emigrants bound for Israel. The Dutch consul in Moscow reports that this processing has been normal as of 12 October and that for the time being there are no indications that the emigration will be cut back as a result of the war.

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The temporary suspension of commercial flights between Bucharest and Tel Aviv due to the hostilities had interrupted the flow of

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Jewish emigrants through Romania, but apparently the resumption of El Al flights has been accompanied by a resumption of emigration as well. The US Embassy in Moscow believes, however, that a continuation of hostilities or a major Israeli victory would probably cause the Soviets to suspend or curtail emigration to Israel.

A SHAZLI LINE?

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16. A French Embassy source claims to have "absolutely definite" information that the Egyptians are in the process of preparing a line of static fortifications some distance to the east of the canal and behind the front. Egypt's strategy, according to the French and other sources, is to entrench themselves unshakably and simply wait for Israel to grind itself down against Egyptian ground and antiaircraft defenses. Other uses for Egyptian civil contractors on the east bank might be the construction SAM sites of the SA-2 variety, which require heavy concrete construction.

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IRAN - SAUDI ARABIA

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LEBANON-FEDAYEEN

18. The Lebanese Army reports a sharp decrease in the level of fedayeen activity in southern Lebanon; only one incident of artillery rocket firing across the border into Israel was detected on the night of 13 October.

19. The efforts of the Saudi Arabian and Kuwaiti governments on behalf of the Lebanese appear to be the major factor behind the reduction of fedayeen border action. At the request of the Kuwaitis, the Syrian Government reportedly ordered Saiga leader Zohayr Muhsin to stop action along the Lebanese border. Saudi Arabian diplomatic officials also appealed to Fatah leaders to move their forces to the Golan Heights area and to stop giving Israel a pretext for attacking Lebanon.

20. A senior Lebanese army officer explained to US Embassy officials that much of the fedayeen posturing and the ineffectual rocket firings into Israel were the result of a continuing power struggle between Saiga and Fatah leaders, with each trying to outdo the other without actually taking any risks.

ALGERIA

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KUWAIT

22. Kuwait has decided to dispatch a number of armored units to fight on the Syrian front, according to the local press.

BAHRAIN

23. Bahraini Foreign Minister Sheikh Khalifa warned the US Charge yesterday that his government

is considering ending the US Navy's stationing agreement because of the US political stand on the Middle East situation. He apologized throughout the conversation, reiterating Bahrain's friendship with the US, but said open US shipment of arms to Israel made it difficult for his government to allow the US to maintain a Mideast presence. The embassy's assessment is that Bahrain does not intend to terminate the agreement at this time, but as the situation draws out the government will be under increasing pressure from its neighbors.

TUNISIA

23. The local press reports that arrangements for the resumption of relations between Tunisia and Jordan are in progress.

UGANDA

24. President Amin has arrived in Saudi Arabia for discussions with King Faysal on the Mideast crisis. About half of the 2,000 Ugandans "selected" as volunteers for the Mideast have assembled in Kampala. A number of officers and men have deserted or been arrested because they did not want to serve outside Uganda.

LATE ITEMS

25. The Israeli situation report released at 1530 hours local time on 14 October reports that almost the entire Egyptian army is now on the East Bank of the canal participating in today's offensive. The Egyptian attack is general but concentrated on the southern sector. The Israelis claim to have limited the Egyptian advances to ten kilometers. Israel admits to an Egyptian air attack on their headquarters at Dir Jifjafa, and claims that Mirage aircraft participated for the first time. Some damage also was admitted from the attack.

WHITE
HOUSE

26. On the Syrian front, the Israelis still claim to be near Sassa and in a position to shell Damascus. They report no significant advances, and admit that Syrian and Iraqi forces continue to launch local counterattacks. Syrian air activity is reported to be nonexistent due to fatigue and attrition.

ISRAEL: MIRAGE PROTEST

27. Israel protested to France today against the Arabs' alleged use of French-supplied Mirage fighter aircraft in attacks on Israeli positions along the Suez Canal. The French charge d'affaires, according to a Reuters release, was summoned to the Israeli Foreign Ministry where a senior official made the protest. An Israeli military spokesman in Tel Aviv had earlier referred to "enemy Mirage aircraft" participating in Egyptian air strikes and other officials had described these aircraft as some of the planes delivered by France to Libya.

PAKISTAN

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